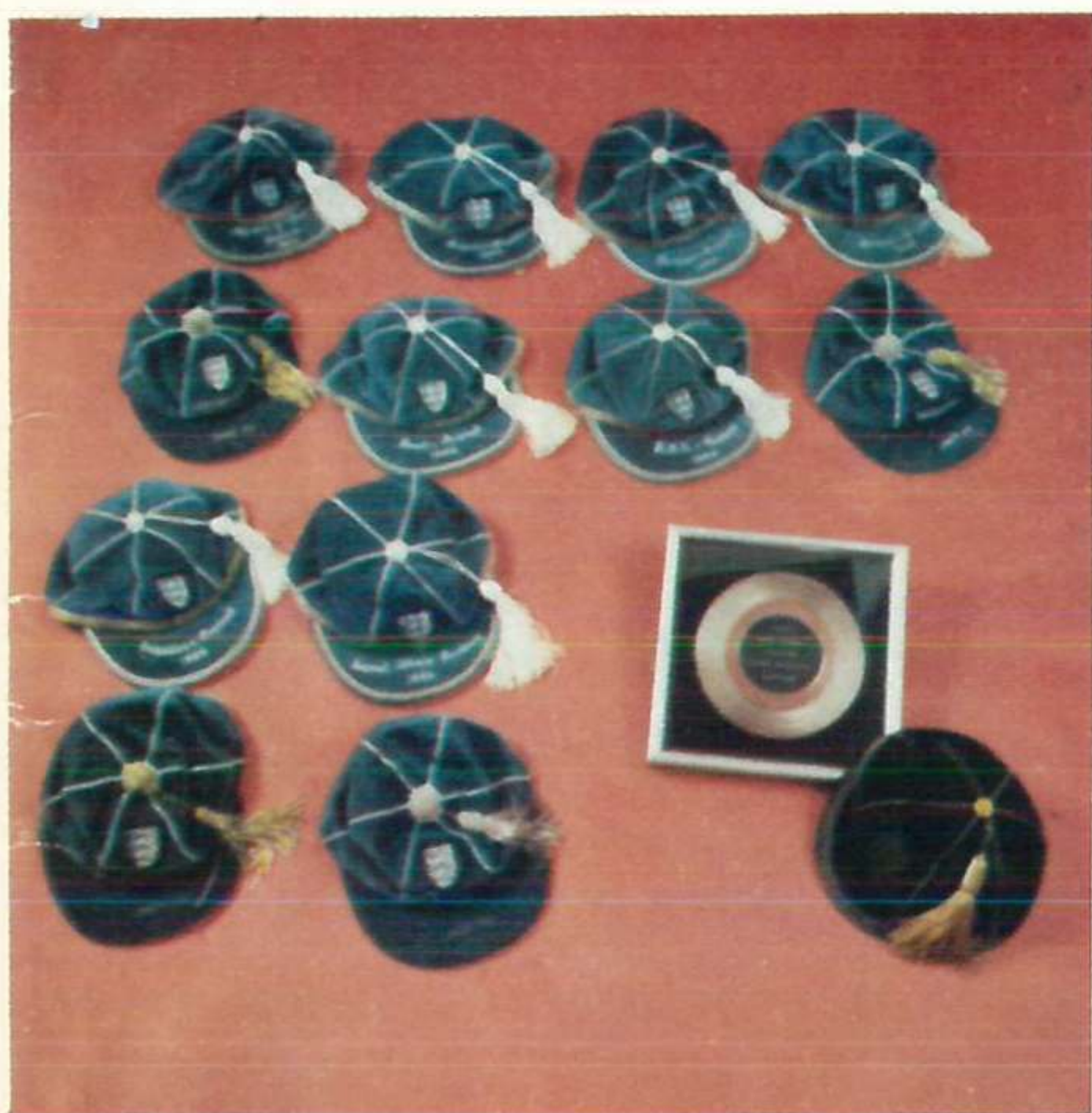
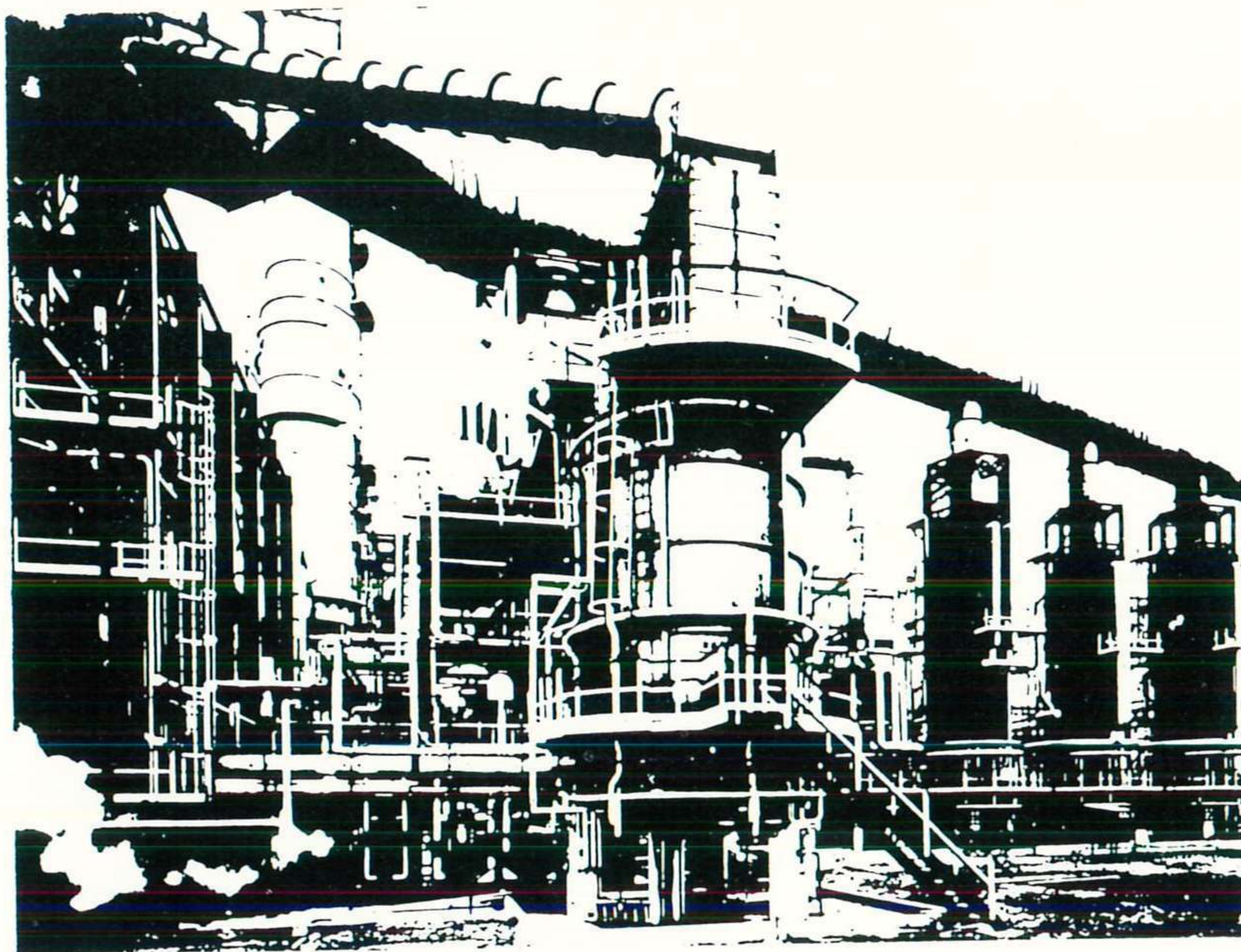


Peter Thompson

Testimonial Souvenir Brochure



Best wishes to PETER from all at
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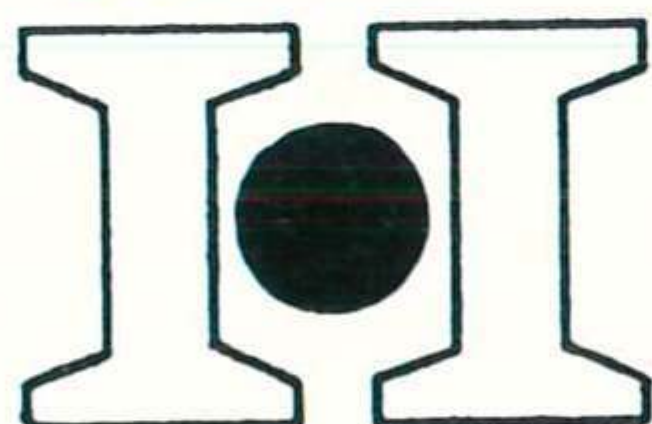


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PETER THOMPSON

TESTIMONIAL

BROCHURE

1977

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Bolton Wanderers helped me to regain my pride as a Professional Footballer

PETER THOMPSON

AFTER 17 years as a professional footballer, I have decided to retire at the end of the present season, and I will find it very hard to accept.

Football has been my whole life and I am very grateful to everything it has given me. I was lucky enough to achieve nearly all I set out to, international caps, F.A. Cup Winners medal, 2 League Championship medals and travelling all over the world.

I spent most of my career with Liverpool, which is a fabulous club. I played in a wonderful side which must have compared with any in the world. All the players were close friends on and off the field, and my career seems to have flown by.

I would like to thank Liverpool for agreeing to bring their team over to Bolton to play in my Testimonial game. It means a great deal to me to finish off my career by playing against "Liverpool."

When I was 30, and after two operations on my left knee, I was told by a top specialist that I had 12 months at the very most left in football. After getting over the shock, I settled down to play out my contract with Liverpool, which had a few months to go, when along came Bolton. I eventually signed and would like to take this opportunity to thank Jimmy Armfield and his Directors for having the faith in me. I have had four fabulous years at Burnden and have enjoyed a new lease of life. And I would like to think that I have re-paid their faith in me.

I would also like to thank the present manager, Ian Greaves for allowing me to play as an individual, and not try to shackle me with tactics.

My thanks, too, to the lads for whom I have great respect and friends, and to the fans who have been fabulous to me ever since my first game against Sunderland.

My Testimonial Committee have done a wonderful job for me; nothing has been too much trouble for them. They have given up much of their valued time to help my Testimonial and without them it would not have been the success it has been up to now.

Thanks to Norman Wynne, who has given up many hours of his time compiling this brochure for me, Frank Booth and the Bolton Evening News for their excellent coverage of all my functions.

To everyone in Preston, where my career started, Liverpool and Bolton, I would like, on behalf of my wife, Barbara and daughters, Karen and Deborah, to thank you all from the bottom of my heart, for everything you have done for me.

Thank you.



BARR
SOFT DRINKS



GEORGE WARBURTON

(BOLTON WANDERERS CHAIRMAN)

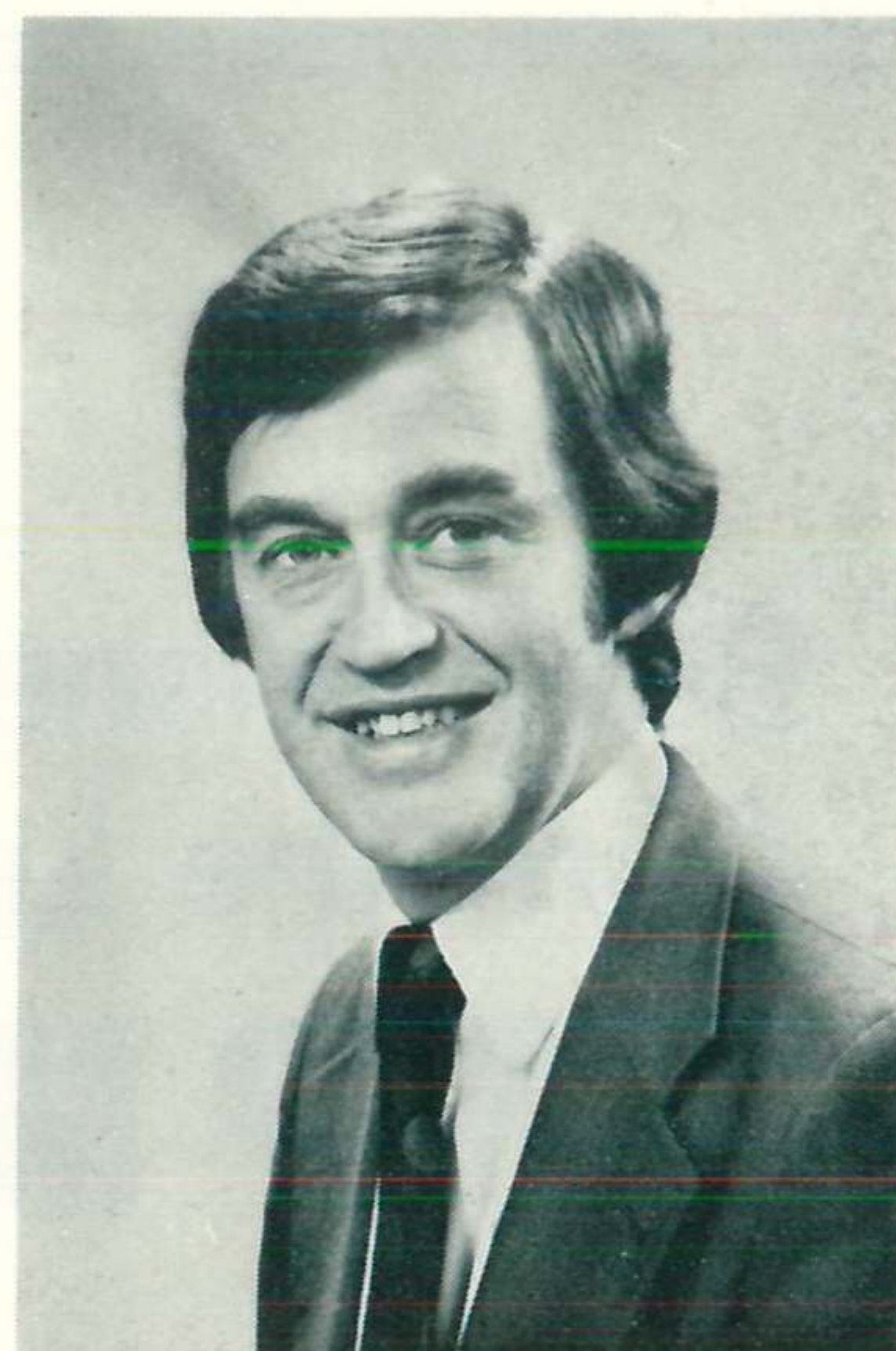
IT IS with great pleasure that I write these few words about Peter Thompson for this brochure in honour of his testimonial.

Peter has been with Bolton only a short part of his 17 years as a professional footballer but he has proved himself to be not only a great player but also one of the 'nice guys' off the field.

He came to Bolton with the reputation of being one of the finest players England has produced for decades. And in his short spell at Burnden he showed us the style that has bewitched opposing defenders all over the world.

In addition to his skills he is also one of the most dedicated players I have known and he has always given his best for the team. And his best has been a marvellous mixture of honesty and skill that has brought back some glamour to Burnden Park.

His popularity with his fellow players and the fans is well deserved and I hope that the fans of Liverpool and Bolton turn up in large numbers to give him a bumper send-off.



BASIL MORRIS

(TESTIMONIAL FUND CHAIRMAN)

ON A COLD and dismal Wednesday afternoon in November 1973, Peter Thompson first played for Bolton Wanderers. A victory over Sunderland was recorded and from that day Bolton's good fortunes in the Second Division began.

Peter Thompson brought to a young and fit Bolton side his own intuitive and brilliant skill. Supporters returned to the fold, words such as "genius" and "magic" were breathed as Peter weaved his spell on Bolton's left flank.

Any young team requires example and experience. Peter Thompson, just as Tony Dunne after him, provided both these qualities in abundance, on and off the field.

Anyone associated with the Wanderers camp cannot fail to sense the team spirit which prevails. Although many, including the players themselves, are responsible for this, Peter Thompson's considerable contribution should never be underestimated.

All Bolton supporters are sad that he is to end his illustrious football career, and many regret that in the spring of 1977 Peter does not wear the number 11 shirt as of right.

Perhaps he will yet return in Bolton's final drive to Division 1, but whatever will be, Peter Thompson can look back on his days at Burnden Park with happiness, knowing that his help to a club of tradition has been enormous, and confident that Bolton will remember him with affection and gratitude.

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JIMMY ARMFIELD

"PETER COULD TURN A GAME ON HIS OWN."

AT THE beginning of the 1973/74 season, Bolton had a very good, but very young side. I was their manager and we had just won promotion from the Third Division as champions.

After about a dozen games in the Second Division I knew that we needed a player with experience to help the youngsters settle down.

But I also knew any player I signed would have to be someone the Bolton players could look up to, someone they could respond to, someone who could set them an example.

And immediately I settled on Peter Thompson at Liverpool. I knew he hadn't played for some time because of injury, but I also knew him to have all the qualities I needed.

I remembered seeing Peter at Preston while I was playing for Blackpool. He was at outside-left with David Wilson on the right and I remember thinking that these were the two best young wingers I had ever seen.

Peter was a natural right-footed player and it seemed to me he was played on the left to make room for Wilson. But he still proved to be so perfectly balanced that he could play on the left side with equal effect.

From Preston he went to Liverpool and he was one of Bill Shankly's trump cards. He and Ian Callaghan complimented each other although they were different types of players — but they had certain things in common — their attitude was excellent, and their behaviour was exemplary.

I knew, too, that Peter was the kind of player who could turn a game on his own. I recalled one game which seemed heading for a certain goalless draw until, suddenly, with only minutes to go, Peter collected the ball on the halfway line, ran through the entire opposing defence and his final shot whistled into the net.

It is strange that he didn't get many goals but he was not alone in that. Many famous wingers never scored many goals. Stanley Matthews was a prime example.



This, then, was the player I felt could help the youngsters at Bolton and he joined us. He trained with us on the Monday and when the other players had finished, he did some lapping on his own.

The following day he played against Sunderland, who were doing very well, and he was instrumental in winning the game for us.

The players and the fans quickly responded to him and it was Peter who was largely responsible in us finishing in seventh place that season.

I have no hesitation in saying that Peter was instrumental in pushing Bolton towards the top again. I think if we had not signed him, Bolton could have been a mediocre side in the Second Division.

It was the effect he had on other people, not so much on the field as off it. The way he trained, his friendly nature and the way he spoke to the young players. He was never superior to anybody.

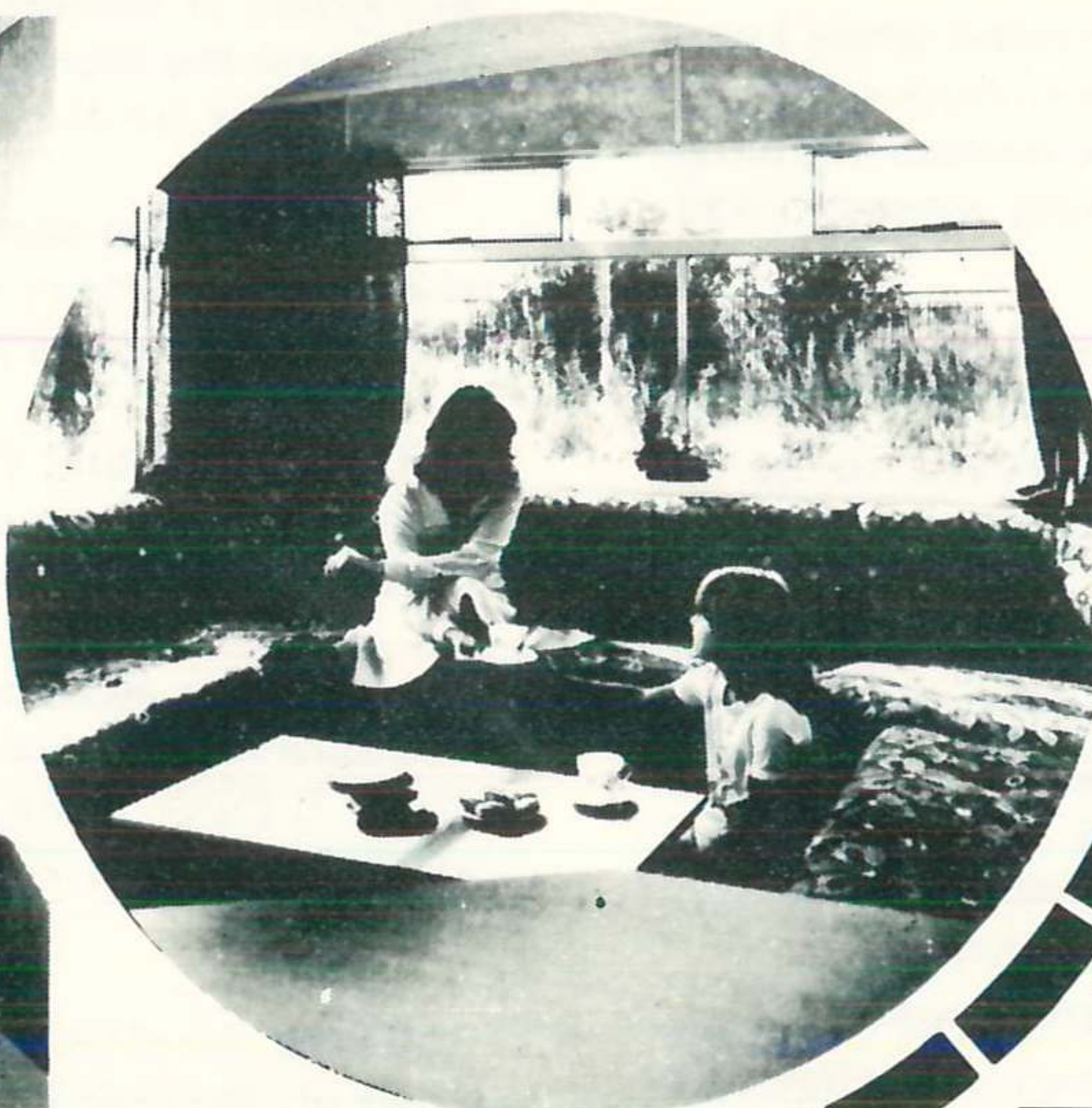
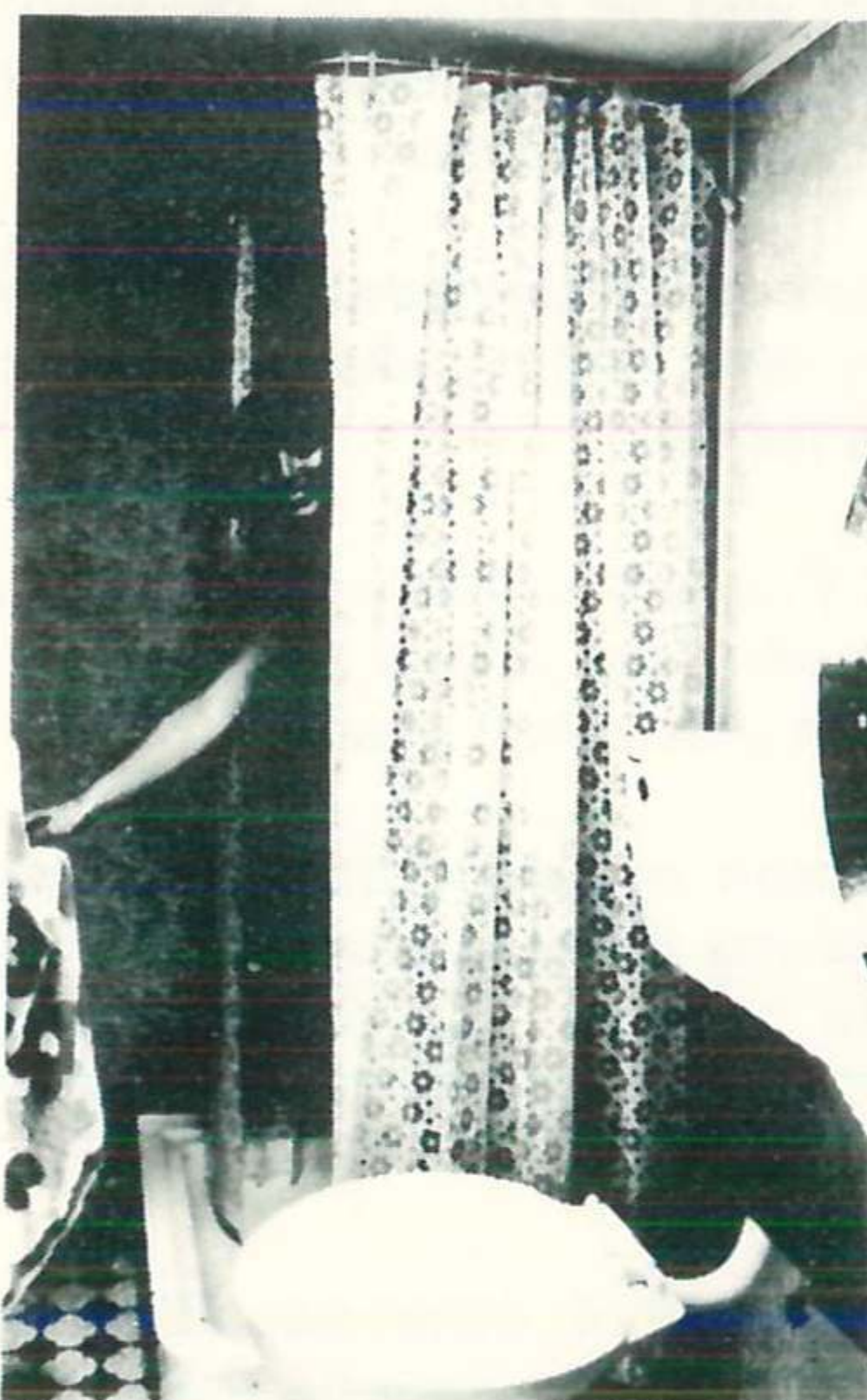
Peter is the type of player who deserves a testimonial for two reasons. Firstly, because of the way he has conducted himself as a player and secondly because of the genuine skill he has provided with such regularity for so many people throughout his career.

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A SUPER PRO

says the manager

IAN GREAVES

THE FIRST thing that any manager has to do is to get to know his players, the strengths and weaknesses of their ability, their temperament on and off the field . . . all the little things that help to build up the family spirit of any successful team.

I have been Peter Thompson's "boss" for something like 100 games; I know his strengths and I know his temperament.

But even now he still produces some new trick on the field, something special that amazes me and often baffles his opponents.

That is the secret of Peter. Even after 17 years as a professional footballer he can still perfect something new. He is still humble enough, even after collecting every honour in the game, to know that he cannot exist on reputation alone.

That reputation has been earned the hard way on the playing fields of the world. He is respected by his fellow professionals as a gentleman and accepted by them as a winger who can line-up alongside the all-time greats.

When he joined Bolton from Liverpool many sceptics saw it as a move for him to cash in on his reputation. But those people didn't know the REAL Peter Thompson.

He told Bolton honestly about the effects playing has on his knees, and he made those people eat their words by the way he brought a new dimension to Second Division football.

One cameo describes his attitude to football. He was due to play for Bolton reserves against Manchester City one Saturday but the game was called off because of bad weather.

That evening at about 8.0 p.m. I telephoned him at home to tell him to report to the ground the following day to join the party going to London for the game with Fulham.

I spoke to his wife Barbara and learned that Peter was out training, running around his caravan site! That's the kind of professional he is.

He doesn't need a manager—he manages himself. The only tag you can hang on him is "a super pro".

He's a manager's dream a teetotal, non-smoking fitness fanatic, a model on which all young football hopefuls should try to emulate.

I have tried desperately hard to get him to change his mind about retiring. I am convinced he he can go on longer, even in the First Division, for his kind of skill never diminishes.

But he is determined to stop . . . and that is one of the tragedies of today. Football will be the loser.

THE STYLE OF

By

Bill Shankly

Who signed Peter Thompson for Liverpool

*He could
turn
defenders
so much
that they
would
often be
playing
against
themselves
and not
against
us*

IF PETER THOMPSON had not taken up football he could have competed in the Olympic Games. That's how good an athlete he was.

He could run for ever but more importantly in football he could run with the ball — probably the hardest thing to do.

He could run every minute of every game, every week, every year better than anybody else; his workrate was outstanding, his fitness unequalled, his balance like a ballet dancer.

I have no hesitation in placing Peter up among the all-time greats — alongside such players as Tom Finney, Stanley Matthews and George Best.

Defenders had no peace when playing against him; they could never relax. He could turn defences around with his skills so that quite often they were playing against themselves rather than playing against the opposition.

That's what Peter Thompson did for football!

I was manager of Carlisle when Peter left his home town to sign for Preston. Perhaps it was because Preston were then in the First Division, perhaps it was because Tom Finney was playing for them that helped him make that decision.

All I know is that I was very disappointed when he chose not to play for his home-town team. But I watched him develop at Deepdale through the Preston Youth team and blossom into a League player of infinite class.

When I moved to Liverpool I had a close-up of Peter's extraordinary talent because he scored the goal that put us out of the F.A. Cup in a replay at Old Trafford.

I knew then that he was the player I needed to make Liverpool the kind of team I wanted. His dedication his professionalism and his application helped lay the foundation of Liverpool's greatness.

What he achieved at Liverpool is now a part of history. Together with Ian Callaghan he was part of one of the most successful sides of all times.

The only thing that disappoints me is that he didn't receive as many England Caps as his wonderful skills demanded.

I was appalled when he was left out of the England World Cup squad in 1966 and again in Mexico four years later.

We had one of the greatest wingers in the world yet he was not considered good enough for England!

They said he didn't score enough goals; they said his final pass wasn't telling enough. Well, my answer to that is simple:

If he had scored goals as well as everything else he did, he would have been in the same category as Jesus Christ!

It is a pleasure for me to say: "Thank's Peter for what you did for football. It's a pity your's is a dying art."

A SUPER STAR



HE WAS THE GREAT ENTERTAINER!

PETER THOMPSON was one of the great footballing entertainers of all time, ball-juggling genius who had the fans drooling and opposing defenders tearing their hair out in frustration.

Put him in the class of Stanley Matthews and George Best as a player who would have the crowds flocking to every ground in the country to see him play. Such players are not in football today, sadly.

His was a name I had not heard very much about when he put Liverpool out of the F.A. Cup with the only goal in a replay at Old Trafford.

I had just come down from Scotland and I must confess I don't remember anything about his goal that day. Perhaps it was because I was too sick at losing!

But obviously Bill Shankly, then the manager of Liverpool remembered, for soon after that he signed Peter and then told the world that the Anfield jig-saw was complete.

And he was right, of course. Peter was an immediate hit in Liverpool. At a time when The Beatles and Cilla Black reigned supreme, Peter was still top of the pops in the entertainment field as far as Anfield was concerned.

says **IAN ST JOHN**



His skill and trickery became the perfect partner for our more direct right-winger Ian Callaghan and between them they so completely destroyed opposing defenders that they made it easy for the other players in the team to score goals.

Peter has always been a dedicated fitness fanatic, and off the field he was one of the nicest guys in the business.

He had infinite belief in his ability and he always had one thought whenever he took the field — and that was to entertain.

He deserves a bumper testimonial and I hope those Liverpool and Bolton fans who have been so entertained over the years will turn up in force to say to Peter "thanks for the memories."

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ROGER HUNT

BUT HE COULD SCORE GOALS!

HISTORY will tell of the talents of Peter Thompson, of his skill with the ball, of his pace and of his stamina. What it won't tell is of his goal-scoring ability.

For it is one of the mysteries of football that he didn't score too many goals although he was one of the most beautifully balanced, two-footed players I have ever seen.

Yet of all the fond memories I have of playing with Peter, two stand out vividly – and both were of him scoring goals.

He first came to the attention of Liverpool when he scored the goal by which Preston knocked us out of the F.A. Cup. But the goal he scored FOR Liverpool against Chelsea to put us in the Cup final was rich in all the talents of a great player.

He cut outside Ron Harris, hared for the line and from a very tight angle he hit a tremendous shot into the net and Liverpool were on their way to Wembley.

But he bettered even that with the goal he scored against West Ham on what was, I think, was the first televised "Match of the Day."

He was faced by three defenders when he got the ball, but he left them all trailing with his tight skills and sent a left-foot shot thudding against a post.

As the ball rebounded to him, he proceeded to round another two defenders and, this time, with his right foot, slammed the ball into the net. One of the few truly great goals I have seen.

For me Peter was a better RIGHT-winger than left. In the 'mini' World Cup of 1964, England played Brazil, Argentina and Portugal and Peter, at outside-right, was easily the best player of the tournament.

He made his debut for England on the right-wing when he always used to go to the by-line. On the left, he tended to bring the ball back and cross it with his right foot.

One of the reasons why Liverpool had such a great team in the 60's was because Peter and Ian Callaghan used to destroy defences and leave space for the rest of us.

Peter was so natural, a fantastic ball-player with the strength and stamina to go up and down for 90 minutes. He used to tear full-backs apart.

For me he was a better ball player than George Best without Best's finishing touch. Yet I will fondly remember for all time, those two marvellous goals he scored against Chelsea and West Ham.

I hope he has a marvellous turn-out for his testimonial game. He deserves it.

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Peter's Goal for Preston, that knocked Liverpool out of the Cup

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TOM FINNEY

HE HAD A TALENT THAT WAS
REMARKABLE AND EXCITING

PETER THOMPSON is leaving football and while I understand his decision it is one which makes me sad.

For he is a throwback to the old fashioned winger, a skilful player who, by his shuffle, swerve and change of pace, can open out defences completely. And there is nobody left today who can take over.

From the first time I saw him, as a tall skinny youth at Preston, I have watched his career closely and been enthralled by the way his skill has developed to make him one of the outstanding players in the game.

It is a matter of history now that Peter was not thought good enough to play for England in the World Cups of 1966 and 1970.

And it is a matter of history, too, that that decision has made football in this country suffer cruelly.

We lost the need for inventive players and relied, instead, on the long-distance runners, the hard men who could go on for ever.

Perhaps, then, it is not surprising that our football at international level has dropped to the stage where we are not even certain of qualifying for the World Cup finals.

Peter came to Preston as a schoolboy centre-forward and the reputation of being a prolific goalscorer. Cliff Britton was our manager at the time and he decided to move Peter to outside-left. And it was that decision which played such an important part in Peter's future.

I had the pleasure of playing with Peter in a close-season tour of Switzerland. I was at the end of my career with Preston and Peter was just beginning his.



I was at centre-forward in our three games and Peter was on the left-wing, and it was quickly obvious that here was a youngster with a talent that was both remarkable and exciting.

Those games were the only ones in which we played together. And even then – he was only 17 – he had his feet firmly on the ground.

Quiet, unassuming and a dedicated trainer he had all the hallmarks of becoming a great player. And he achieved just that.

Every great club or country side in the world has always had one outstanding winger. England chose to do without Peter Thompson but, fortunately, my old friend Bill Shankly kept him going at Liverpool. And we all know just what Liverpool achieved with him.

He deserves a bumper testimonial for the pleasure he gave to so many people. I, for one, am delighted to say: "Thanks Peter, for the memories."

CAPPED — as a boy 1958....

(ENGLAND v. GERMANY)



.... and as a man 1964

(ENGLAND v. PORTUGAL in Lisbon)



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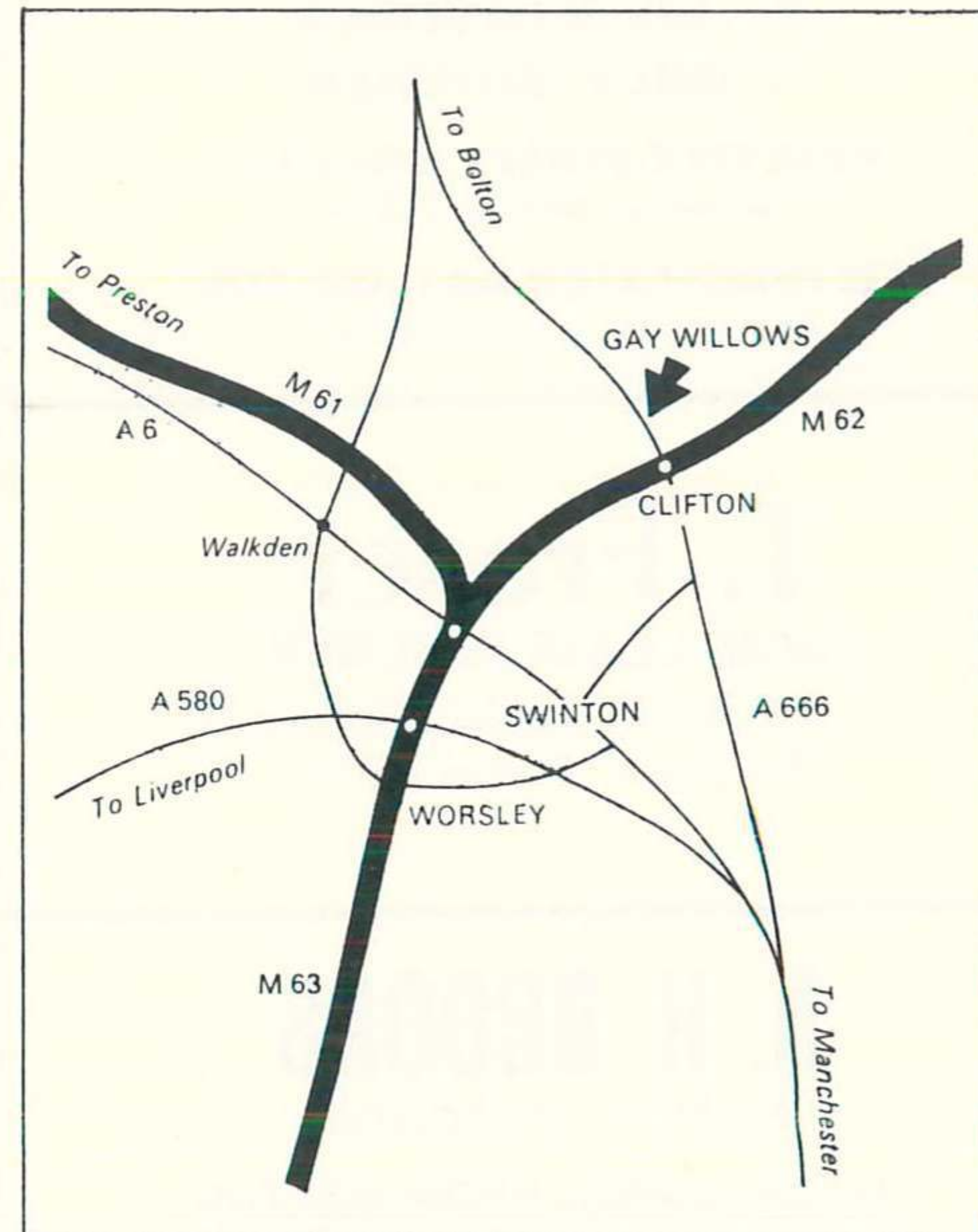
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Mike Langley

(Sunday People)

'I'll always remember the winger who could skin two men in a phone box'.

PETER THOMPSON lives on the window-sill of my study, forever 28 and crouched in the front row of England v. The Press, Mexico City, 1970.

He was their outside-left, I was our right-back in a 9-0 massacre.

The only time I stopped him was for a handshake at the finish, and neither of us knew then that his England career would finish in a fortnight.

(continued on page 21)

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MIKE LANGLEY *(continued)*

We flew to South America for altitude training. To Bogota, of bracelet fame. Then, higher still, to Quito in the Andes.

There he was dropped for the last time and, as it's 9,500 feet up, from a great height. Two World Cups, two exclusions from the final 22.

"Most unfortunate, but one cannot be sentimental", said Sir Alf Ramsey.

Sentiment wasn't part of the argument, sense was, for it hardly seemed rational to discard the party's cleverest ball-player, it's only winger, and an experienced man with 16 caps.

Other wingers like Terry Paine, John Connelly and Ian Callaghan (even if, in the end, we didn't play them) forced Peter Thompson out of the 1966 World Cup squad.

In Mexico, there was no direct challenger. Yet out he went again while three newish strikers came in — Jeff Astle, Peter Osgood, Allan Clarke. Their total contribution amounted to one goal, a penalty by Clarke.

Thompson might not have bettered that, for it's never been less than 8-1 against him scoring, but his skill in holding, shielding and passing the ball must have bought time and preserved energy in the crushing heat of Mexico.

"Wingers are dead", said Alf, by implication. Then a winger, Jairzinho of Brazil, beat us in the group. And another winger, Grabowski of West Germany, destroyed us in the quarter-final.

Wingers weren't dead, but we were. And seven years on, nothing's changed.

Managerial distrust of unorthodox players is unchanged. And Peter Thompson is unchanged — still trim, alert, a credit to the game in behaviour and ability.

He's in the tradition of Stanley Matthews with a style recalling the time when football was man against man, not a collision between robot platoons. And that's the sort of football many of us wish to see again.

When we've forgotten the long-distance runners, the ball-winners, the fellows who can't take a corner without referring to the dug-out, we'll remember the wingers who could skin two men in a phone-box.

We'll remember Peter Thompson.



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and where they led....



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Three Faces of PETER THOMPSON

THE THREE faces of Peter Thompson are clearly defined in these pictures — a model of dedication, loyalty and friendship.

AT REST Peter is a loving husband who prefers to relax at home with his attractive wife Barbara and two daughters, Karen and Deborah, also the dog Winston and the horse Princess.

AT PLAY Peter takes his friendship with the Bolton players on to the golf course as he prepares for a game with colleagues Roy Greaves and Sam Allardyce.

AT WORK Peter is a dedicated footballer, a fiercely competitive player as Arsenal goalkeeper Bob Wilson is willing to testify as he goes down at Peter's feet.

In fact, you can say he is a model, all round sort of guy.

AT REST....



AT WORK....

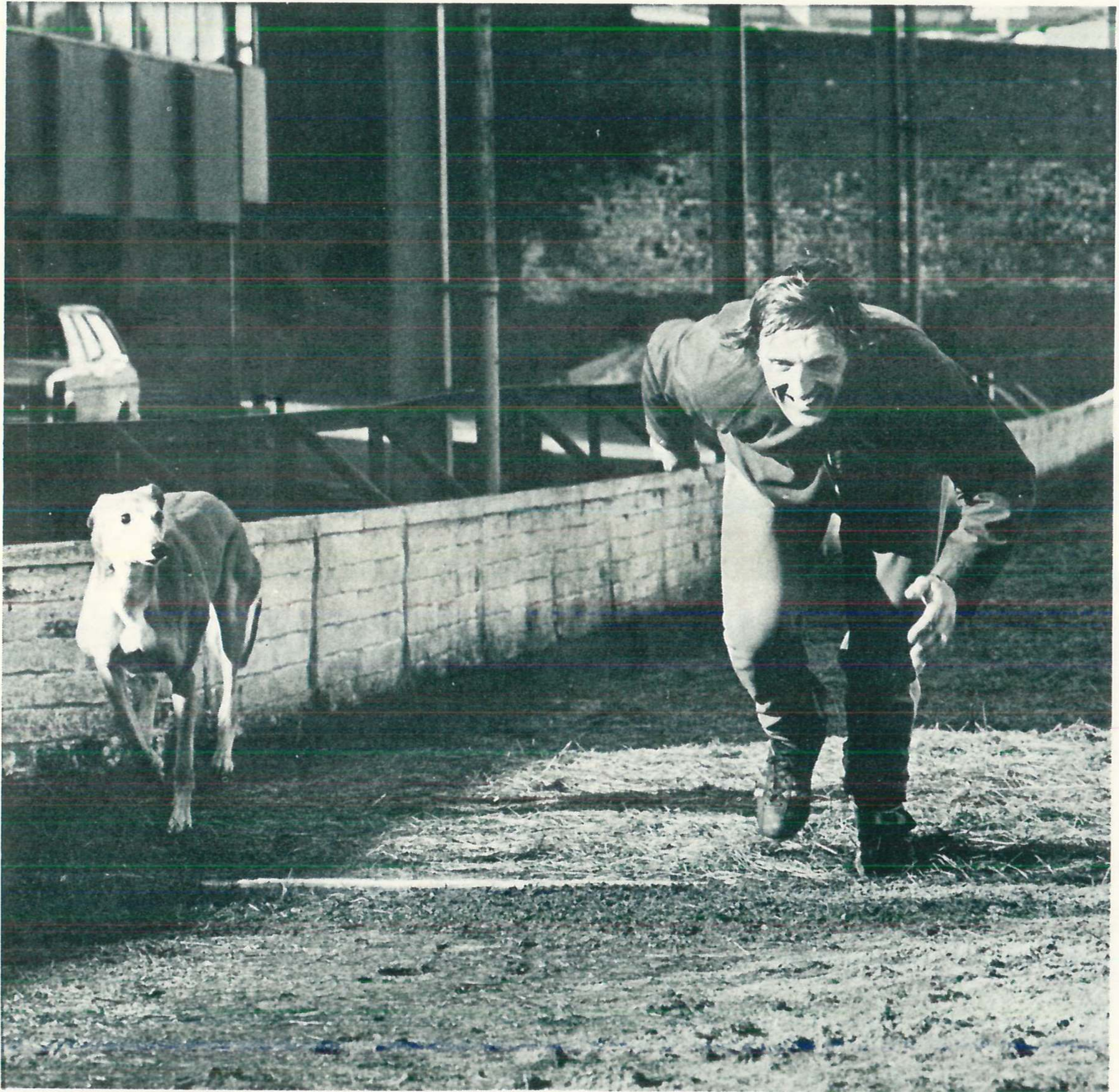


AT PLAY....



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“Peter’s new inside-left”
(a spot of fun during training)

A Soccer Magician

Richard Bott

(SUNDAY EXPRESS)

IT IS always sad to see a genuine entertainer go out of the game. There are so few of them around. And there will be one less when Peter Thompson hangs up his boots.

He has been one of the best, a footballing magician, a twisting, turning tormentor of defenders, a blond darling of the crowds.

In some ways I feel he will be glad to call it a day. Eighteen months ago he told me: "The game has changed. It is so boring and it needs entertainers." I love to twist and turn, do my old tricks. But it is getting harder. It used to be me against the full-back. Now they line up, one behind the other and if I get so much as a glimpse of the bye line, I get a rush of blood to the head.

"In one game, recently, this young lad stuck so close to me that if I had gone to the toilet he would have followed me. He kept staring, staring all the time. I didn't get a kick and neither did he... yet he was named 'Man of the Match'!"

A few more games like that and Thompson would have hung up his boots there and then. Fortunately, the fear and frustration of the modern game could neither stifle his skill or his enthusiasm.



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RICHARD BOTT *(continued)*

It took another crop of injuries to do that and now 'Tommo' has decided he is better looking to his future as the proprietor of a caravan site overlooking Morecambe Bay.

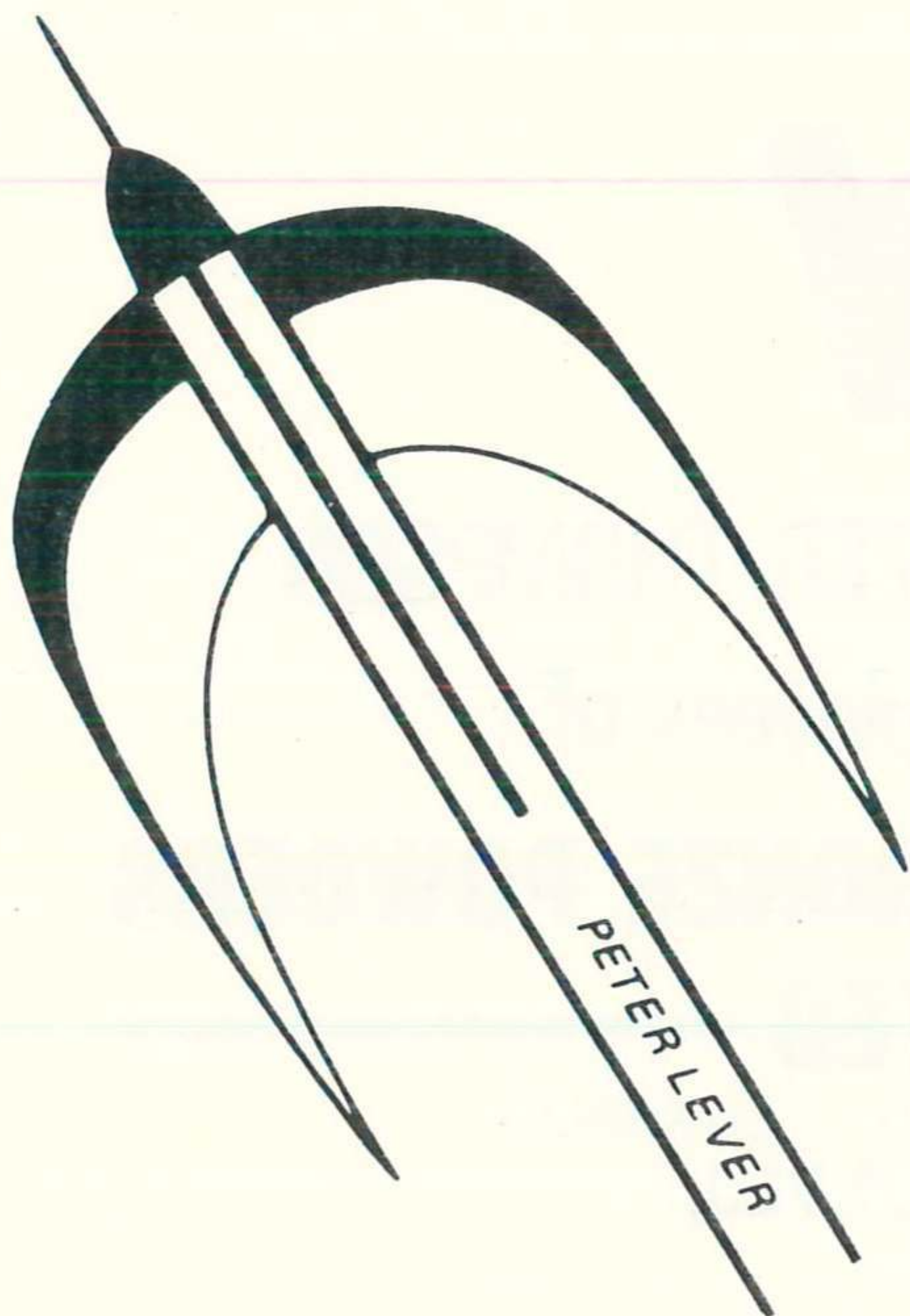
So many players go out of the game with a chip on their shoulder. Not Peter Thompson. He enjoyed every minute of an illustrious career with Liverpool and then the unexpected bonus of becoming a huge favourite all over again, at Bolton. A bonus, because doctors had written him off after two knee operations.

"When I went to Bolton I forgot about the Anfield Kop, the big money, the medals and England caps. It was a second chance and I was so grateful for it.

Some managers wouldn't have wanted me in their side, they would have preferred 11 runners and grafters. I was thrilled to bits when Bolton told me 'Don't change your style!'"

Throughout his career Peter Thompson has epitomised what football is, should be, all about. Skill and entertainment. He has been lucky enough to be blessed with the first to provide the second.

I have been lucky enough to see him play.



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THE FIRST TIME I SAW MAGIC !

Denis Lowe (Daily Telegraph)

I DON'T agree with the football folk whose constant theme is "Those were the days", but I quite happily went back 17 years for an outstanding memory of Peter Thompson when I was asked to contribute to this brochure.

Many glittering prizes have deservedly come Peter's way over the years, but I pass over his international matches and the glory days with Liverpool to go back to a night at Deepdale in April, 1960.

The match was the first-leg of the F.A. Youth Cup semi-final . . . a 3-0 victory for Preston against Manchester United . . . and my first glimpse of the glorious talents of a 17-year-old Carlisle boy, Peter Thompson.

He was a centre-forward at the time, and scored twice and made the other goal against United, the club he so nearly joined instead of Preston two years earlier.

I can see that first Thompson goal, scored soon after the start, even now. A free-kick looked to be bouncing harmlessly towards the Manchester goal when Peter nipped in.

Showing expert control, he brought the ball down and slipped it past the bewildered goal-keeper - I believe it was Ronnie Briggs, later to be capped by Northern Ireland - as the big crowd (they used to get around 20,000 for youth games) roared their approval.

Later that night, after marvelling at Peter's skill, speed and courage, I asked Tom Finney, then the current occupant of the No 9 shirt at Preston, about the youngster, and heard glowing praise from a man who was never given to overstatement.

Looking back through the yellowing newspaper files, I see Tom predicted that Thompson would play for England - and it was a downright shame that he won only 16 full caps.

Peter, of course eventually switched to the wing - the position he favoured - and lost the scoring habit. In recent seasons a Thompson goal has been a rarity - he has concentrated on providing chances for others - but I'll always remember the first time I saw Peter score.



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**so much
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as far as Bolton Fans are concerned Peter is,

THE MAN WHO CAN WALK ON WATER!

**Andrew
Leatham**
(Sunday People)

Lifelong Burnden Paddock Supporter

IF THERE'S one criticism Peter Thompson makes of himself it is that he has lost the ability to score goals.

During his days at Preston, both as a winger and a centre-forward, he was known for his goal-scoring ability. It's his days with the mighty Liverpool he blames for losing that magic finishing touch.

"There were so many star men just queueing up to put the ball in the net I was never called upon to do it," he says.

But the fact that he rarely rattles one in matters little to the fans at Burnden Park.

They pay to see Thompson at his best — out on the wing, dazzling the opposition, amazing his team mates and stunning the crowds. His ball-play is at the worst good and at best unbelievable.

I once heard a life-long Bolton supporter remark after one of Peter's incredible wing runs: "If yon ball 'ad a mouth is 'ud talk back to 'im."

That just about sums up Peter Thompson and his amazing skills. He could perform wonders with the ball, wonders enough to make big men grovel at his feet.

And all this from a man who six years ago was a soccer write-off, just another has-been collecting his wages.

Two cup final appearances and 16 England caps behind him, he was struggling to keep his place in the Liverpool reserve side when Bolton's then manager Jimmy Armfield took him on a month's trial. And it was during the 1974 power disruptions that Peter got the chance of his second coming.

Bolton were due to play Stoke in an F.A. Cup match being played on a Sunday afternoon because of the power supply problem. Bill Shankly, as Liverpool's manager, gave Armfield an ultimatum: "Sign Thompson or I take him back.

Terms were agreed and Peter signed for Bolton for £18,000. Armfield was later to say: "He was the best signing I ever made. "Few Bolton fans would disagree with that.

When he signed for Bolton one of soccer's leading personalities was privately saying that Peter would only last six weeks before his age-old complaint — his knee — went on him again and he would be finished. I hope that man is here tonight.

It was around 4 years ago, after his second cartilage operation, that a doctor hit Peter below the belt and told him: "The knee will last you a lifetime, but it's only good for 12 months in professional soccer.

Peter's feelings next time he took to the field are not recorded. They must have been frightful. It says a lot for the courage of the man that he went on to do what he has done — help drag Bolton from Third Division to the very edge of promotion and their rightful place in the First Division.

Peter, of course, hasn't played a first-team game for Bolton for most of this season because of the bug-bear knee, but his contribution to the success of the side should not be forgotten.

He brought "width" to Bolton's game. When Peter played the team utilised the entire width of the park instead of relying on the boring, long-ball down the middle. Some of the youngsters at Burnden are learning the tricks. It remains to be seen whether they can elevate themselves into the same class.

So Peter will never again turn out in the beloved "Superwhite" strip, But his talents are not forever lost. Take a caravan on the site he owns near Knott End and early one morning you may be treated to the sight of an ex-Bolton Wanderers, Liverpool and England winger racing a ball around the caravans to the delight of some — and amazement of other — guests.

When Peter appears tonight remember that he has truly earned the Burnden chant: "Peter Thompson walks on water."



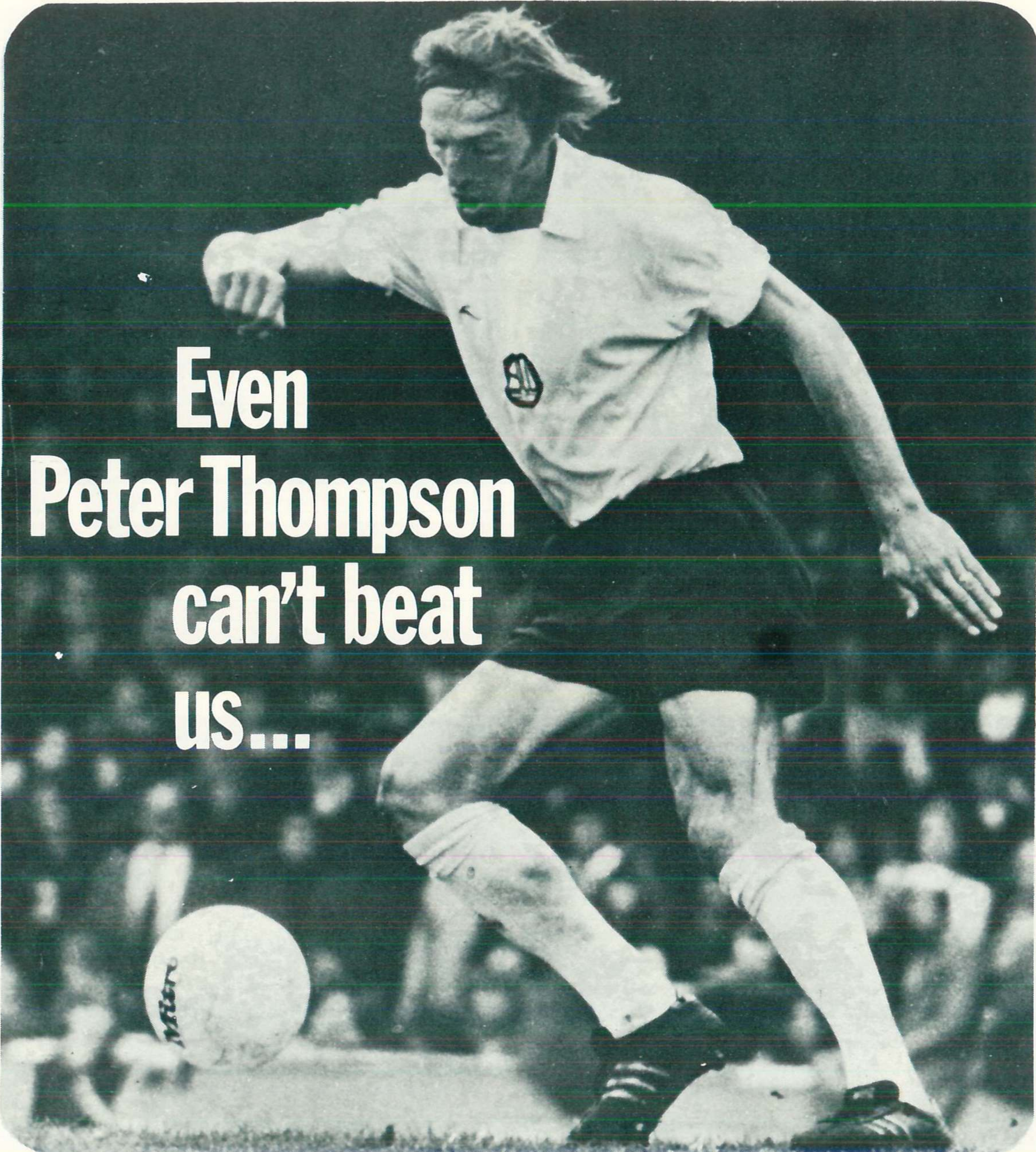
Peter in action at Burnden against Portsmouth



Peter's swerve delights the Burnden Paddock Fans



Double marking Peter at Burnden Park, Bobby Moore is waiting to pounce for Fulham



**Even
Peter Thompson
can't beat
us...**

**Sunday
Mirror**

**DAILY
Mirror**

**Sunday
People**

Unbeatable for top soccer coverage!

David Miller (DAILY EXPRESS)

It is one of the ironies of English Soccer that a player as naturally gifted as Peter Thompson should have gained a mere 16 caps.

In the tradition of Tom Finney, he was marvellously two-footed, could play equally well on either wing, and if he lacked Finney's goal-scoring ability, he had more pace for leaving defenders behind once he had got past them.

Throughout his colourful career he had that gift precious to all crowds who care about the game, that of entertainment. He was welcome wherever he played with Liverpool as an example of genuine skill, appreciated by winners and losers alike.

It is a myth that Alf Ramsey did not want wingers. He continued to play wingers right up to the start of the World Cup in 1966, Thompson included, but was only forced to change his mind when he achieved better results with three players in mid-field.

This policy obviously went against the likes of Thompson and John Connelly, his contemporary at Burnley and Manchester United.

Like other entertainers such as Bobby Charlton, I can never recall seeing Peter Thompson do a mean thing. He was one of the few who managed to be simultaneously a competitor and a genuine sportsman, and for that we shall always be grateful.

Like all skilful players, his artistry remained long after the flame of his speed had died, as he has demonstrated so ably in recent seasons with Bolton.

Peter is one of those professionals who has probably given more to the game than he has taken out, and in its present crisis of self-confidence, the game in England would do well to try and create and encourage more players such as Peter — firstly, wingers prepared to run at the defence; secondly, artistic players who seek to destroy the opposition by skill instead of intimidation.

Best wishes to **PETER THOMPSON**
on his Testimonial

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THE ODD

Mike Charters (Liverpool Echo)

PETER THOMPSON first made his mark with Liverpool when he knocked them out of the F.A. Cup.

He was only 19 then, a slim, fresh-faced Carlisle lad winging along for Preston North End — where they know what makes wingers tick — and realised that they had someone in the Tom Finney mould.

It wasn't long before senior clubs were watching Thompson regularly but he hit the headlines with the stunning goal which dismissed Liverpool from the Wembley trail in a fourth-round second replay at Old Trafford.

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MAN OUT

The first two games had been goalless draws, first at Anfield and then at Deepdale on that never-to-be-forgotten night when the Liverpool party were caught in the biggest traffic jam ever seen in the North-West, stretching from Aintree to Preston.

It took Liverpool longer to drive the 35 miles to the match than it did for Col. Glenn to fly round the world — the American astronaut was on the first U.S. major space mission at that time.

So Liverpool boss Bill Shankly saw Thompson beat his boys and marked him down as a future Anfield prospect. That was in January 1962, and eighteen months later, Thompson did switch to Liverpool for £40,000. It was one of the finest moves Liverpool ever made.

Peter went on to become a star man in the superb Liverpool team of the mid sixties which won the League-Cup-League in successive years. And yet, despite being hailed as the finest old-style winger of his day, he was the odd man out in this outstanding Liverpool outfit.

Shankly put team work first and foremost. Players were discouraged to put it mildly, if they tried to do it alone. The abrasive Liverpool manager did not like "Fancy Dans" because they disturbed team rhythm and pattern.

Yet, if anyone was a "Fancy Dan", it was Peter Thompson and Shankly loved him for it. Thompson did things his way, beating two, three and four defenders in a dazzling wing dribble when the situation possibly called for a pass to a team-mate. Players used to tell me they did not know what he was going to do next.

But Shankly, who did not take kindly to brilliant individualism — unless it was from his hero Finney — allowed Thompson full rein to display his talents in his own characteristic way.

He realised, of course, that he would have lost half Thompson's value to the team if he had tried to shackle him into a set tactical pattern. So he said, in effect, "Go to it, son, the rest of the team will have to fit in with you."

And that is exactly what happened with the success which made Liverpool, with Leeds, the great team of the decade.

Thompson linked superb footballing ability and technique on the field with the most pleasant and modest of manners off it. In this, he was like his pal Ian Callaghan. He was never in trouble on the field, made a success of his business ventures away from the game, and thoroughly deserves massive support for his testimonial.

He was one of the nicest men in the game, a magnificent player who did not receive adequate international recognition for his talents, and an object lesson to the youngsters in his approach and behaviour.

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**Peter Thompson, Bobby Charlton, Roger Hunt and Gordon Milne
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Delight

as Ron Yeats scores the equaliser against Leeds United.



Despair

as Pat Jennings, the Spurs goalkeeper, goes down to beat Peter.



MIKE ELLIS

(of the SUN)

YOU would hardly expect anything but flowing tributes from sportswriters when they are asked to contribute a few words for a footballer's testimonial brochure. But I can say in all honesty, it's a pleasure to write something complimentary about Peter Thompson. Ah 'if you only knew what we really thought of some of them.'

On the field he has given many people many years of pleasure and off the field he has always been one of the most approachable of players. A modest, likeable man who has never changed.

I first saw him play as a teenager with Preston wearing the number nine shirt at Middlesbrough and the potential was there even at that early age. Moving to Liverpool merely confirmed the arrival of a great player.

I could never understand, during those days when Alf Ramsey's wingless wonders were all the rage, why Peter and his partner Ian Callaghan were not fixtures in the England side.

Ever since the cry has been universal — find me a winger and I'll play him — and through it all Peter has continued to produce his own highly individual brand of wing magic.

When he left Liverpool most of us thought he was heading towards a quiet retirement at Bolton particularly as a severe knee injury had pushed him into the background.

But Peter revealed another side to his character — great personal courage as he shook off the effects of that dodgy knee to make life hell for Second Division full-backs.

I can think of at least 50,000 Anfield fans who were as disappointed as Bolton when they just failed to win promotion last season.

They were deprived of a long overdue treat, watching one of the most skillful players of the 60's and 70's playing where he belonged — back in the First Division. Better luck this time Bolton.

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FOR HIS CONTRIBUTION
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The BUFF

★ Your Saturday

Sports Paper



FRANK BOOTH

BOLTON EVENING NEWS

THERE is no doubt in my mind that one of the main reasons for Bolton Wanderers' success over the past couple of seasons is due to a decision made by former manager Jimmy Armfield.

It was back in November, 1974 that the then Bolton boss went over to Anfield to try to talk then manager Bill Shankly into allowing ex-England winger Peter Thompson to come to Burnden Park on loan.

The news caused some excitement in Bolton, but not a lot. Thompson was known to have had knee trouble and had been out of the Liverpool side for a long spell.

However, Armfield was successful in his quest and the player arrived at Burnden to play his first game for the Wanderers at home to Sunderland on December 5th.

The Wanderers were playing their first season in Division Two after winning promotion from the Third as champions — but things weren't going well.

The side had lost eight out of the previous 10 League games and for the visit of Sunderland only 8,425 fans turned up — new player and all!

Sunderland were beaten 1-0 and a new chapter was being written for the Wanderers. For the side lost only three of the next 23 League games and were at one time in with a chance of promotion and Thompson had made it possible.

The following season was one of consolidation for the Wanderers and then came last season with some heroic exploits in the F.A. Cup and promotion being missed by only one-point.

No one can underestimate the part played by "Thommo". His very presence on the field seemed to lift the side as he gave it new dimensions.

His skill on the ball and his ability to take on any number of defenders soon made him a firm favourite with the fans.

No matter what success the Wanderers have in the future the fans must put down a great part of it to the unassuming Cumbrian. And off the field they don't come any better.

He missed only a handful of games before being injured against Blackpool at Burnden in October this season. As to scoring goals, well he did grab two for the Wanderers, his first coming after only 68 appearances — and he is reckoned to have headed the ball . . . was it last season or the season before?



The England World Cup Squad in fine voice singing their World Cup Song

HORACE YATES

(LIVERPOOL DAILY POST)

PETER THOMPSON, football star in any company, was the player Anfield's thousands first learned to hate and then to love, for it was before his transfer to Liverpool for £32,500 in 1963 that he committed the "unforgiveable" crime . . . he knocked Liverpool out of the F.A. Cup in February 1962.

Preston had earned a goalless draw at Anfield in round five and this was followed by another goalless draw at Preston. It was when the second replay at Old Trafford seemed likely to find both teams unable to score again, that Thompson stepped in with the decider.

Shooting between the snowflakes from about 20 yards, Peter hit the ball on the volley and sent it flying past Bert Slater in the Liverpool goal.

"Thompson" was a naughty word from that day on — until he became a Bill Shankly bargain-buy in time for the opening of 1963-64 season. His first game was at Blackburn and the thousands who travelled quickly spread the gospel — a new star was born — and overnight Thompson, who was responsible for the formation of the League for Prevention of cruelty to Full Backs, qualified for the Anfield halo.

Liverpool have never boasted a cleverer, sleight-of-foot magician. He could beat a defender three times before he knew he had been given the go by. It was sometimes said of Thompson that he would have been twice as good if he had been only half as clever, but he gave hours of untold pleasure to Liverpudlians, who at first had to rub their eyes to believe that this player of a lifetime was really theirs.

Peter laughs when he says, "All my brains were in my feet," for he failed his eleven plus exam and instead found fame and fortune. Instead of settling in as a clerk or something of that nature as a result of stagnating in a Rugby-playing grammar school, it was elementary school and football for Peter. It was his and football's lucky day when those examiners turned him down.

Blessed with the perfect temperament Thompson's skills carried him safely through the 'war' that was so regularly waged against him; he seldom lost his temper and was always as charming off the field as he was tantalising on it.

Thompson, I believe, would have liked to have gone out at the top with Liverpool, but that was before he had sampled the welcome and appreciation he found at Bolton. He was made to feel at home there in away he never thought possible.

He cost Bolton £18,000 when Liverpool released him, first on loan in 1973 and then permanently shortly afterwards.

The Thompson story is a romance in itself. Perhaps it was something more than a coincidence that at the end of Thompson's first season Liverpool were celebrating winning the League Championship.

In 1964-65, the following season, they killed the Everton taunt that Liverpool would never win the F.A. Cup, with victory over Leeds and in 1965-66 it was the Championship again.

No player will ever ask for a finer hat-trick than that.

Although it was a goal that first made Thompson register on Liverpool it is not as a marksman that he is still talked about with affection at Anfield, for his best season as a marksman was 1966-67 with a total of ten — in a season which produced no trophies for Liverpool.

As in the sixties, now in the seventies, Liverpool ride powerfully on, but when heroes are being mounted on their pedestals there will always be a place for Peter Thompson in Liverpool history.

It was the wonderful service he gave both at Anfield and Burnden Park that produces today's tribute to a player without an enemy and with a host of appreciative well-wishers.

Whatever rewards he receives, have been richly earned. There are not many Thompsons in football.

when the **BOOT** comes in

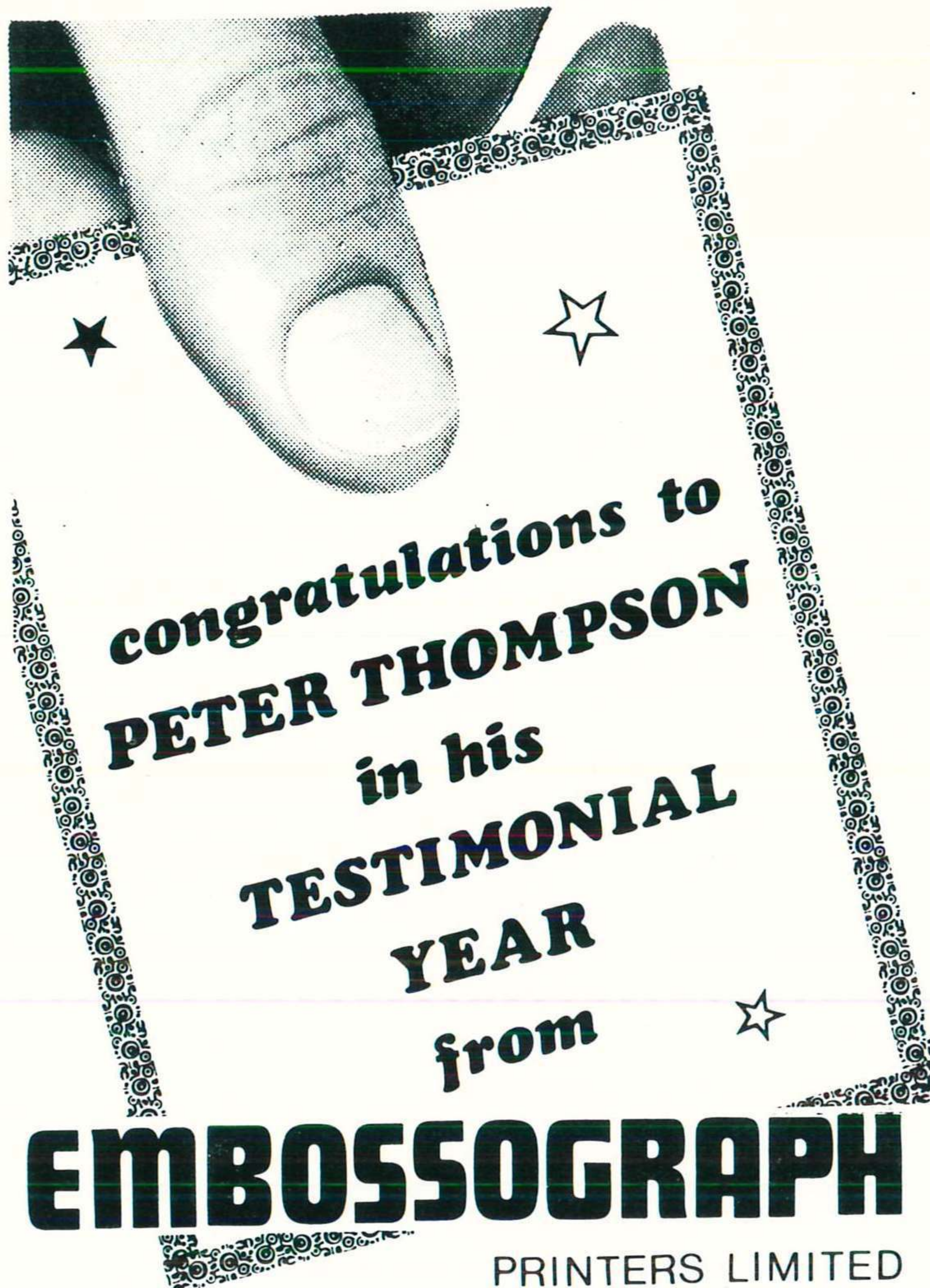


Thompson beats Bentley only to see his shot go wide, when playing for Liverpool against Stoke

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